Mercury&Citizen

Thursday, April 8, 2010

FREE EVERY WEEK

The past week in Chronicle headlines

Plans to open a floating restaurant next to a notorious open-air sex venue have been approved despite legal threats



The historic title of 'alderman' is set to be reintroduced by Northamptonshire County Council to honour its former councillors



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Borough Council
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up wheelie bin
collections for
8,000 homes
currently using
black bags



Inquiry launched over arson death

INSPECTORS have condemned Northamptonshire Police's repeated failure to refer the death of pensioner Mavis Clift to an independent police watchdog, and have launched a full "belated" inquiry as a matter of urgency.

Mrs Clift, aged 75, died in a house

Mrs Clift, aged 75, died in a house fire in Washington Street, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, more than two years ago. It had been set alight by Paul Barber, the estranged husband of her daughter Susan.

Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) commissioner Amerdeep Somal said the alleged murder, which followed a campaign of harassment against the family by Barber, should automatically have been referred to the watchdog and confirmed a full investigation would now take place

now take place.

She said: "This is a death where there was prior contact with the police and this case should have been mandatorily referred to the IPCC by Northamptonshire Police back in January 2008.

"To make matters worse, the force failed again to refer the case to us when the family made a complaint last year. I am dismayed by this failure to fulfil their statutory duties to refer this case to the IPCC, not once but twice in relation to the same case.

"I have decided that the seriousness of the events and frequency of police contact before the death neces-



sitate an independent examination by the IPCC as to whether there are any misconduct issues for individual officers."

Supt Mark Lacey said the force was co-operating with the investigation. He added: "Following the tragic death

of Mrs Clift, Northamptonshire Police did instigate an independent review of our actions by the Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Forum (NOR-DAF). At this time chief officers made a public apology as well as a personal one to Mrs Clift's family about the un-

acceptable service they received prior to her death.

"The improvements we have made in the last two years in how we work with victims of domestic abuse were rated as 'good' by the HMIC in a recent inspection."

Policy on potholes to change

THE head of transport and highways at Northamptonshire County Council has defended plans to take longer to repair potholes.

longer to repair potholes.

David Farquhar said the new way of working, if implemented, would see more proactive preventative re-surfacing work on roads in a reasonable condition, to tackle them before they deteriorate to a level which needs emergency intervention.

Potholes would be fixed with semi-permanent repairs within five days, rather than the temporary repairs currently carried out within 24 hours. This would mean more resources being directed away from tackling 'bad' roads to maintaining 'reasonable' ones.

away from tacking bad roads to maintaining 'reasonable' ones.

Mr Farquhar said: "I think the reason this hasn't been implemented previously is the 'fear factor'. There is a legal challenge to do with potential claims over leaving reported potholes for a longer time and also, of course, we are in a political environment and sometimes people don't want to be unpopular. This is about bucking the trend, sticking our head above the parapet and being the first to challenge the existing system."

Mr Farquhar said the new way of working would be more cost-effective and focus on quality rather than meeting targets.

He said semi-permanent repairs would mean reported defects were actually present on roads for less time overall, as they would not reoccur and have to be reported oregin.

again.

He added: "It's going to be challenging and I'm sure people will say: 'Why am I not getting my road done?' but hopefully they'll see what we're doing elsewhere and like it."

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Family to be remembered

THE 10th anniversary of the murders of a Northampton mother and her two children will be marked with a memorial service later this year.

Claire Austin and her children Keiren and Jade were attacked and killed by Claire's husband, Philip, at their home in Stockmead Road, Standens Barn.

Claire was found by her mother, Carol Quinn, on July 17, 2000, lying on the kitchen floor having been beaten, stabbed and strangled.

Seven-year-old Jade and eight-year-old Keiren had been drugged and strangled in their bedrooms. Their dogs Dandy

and Sooty were also killed.

It is believed the family may have lain dead for a week after they were last seen alive on July 10.

On that date a decade on, a memorial service will take place at St Michael and All Angels Church in Bugbrooke.

Mrs Quinn, aged 61, from Bugbrooke, said: "We want as many people as possible to come along, including the children at Standens Barn Primary School who were friends with Keiren and Jade but who couldn't come to the funeral at the time. And the day after the memorial service, on the Sunday, we will be holding a charity fun day in Bugbrooke in their memory.

> Keiren and Jade Austin who were murdered by their father, Philip (inset)



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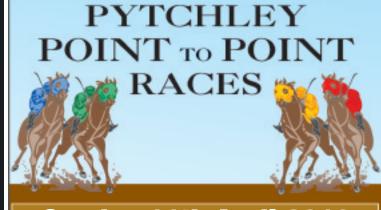
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Alice born in car park

A DRAMATIC dash to Northampton General Hospital ended with an early Easter present for one Northampton family when their baby daughter was born in the hospital's car park.

James Carveth and his fiancee, Gemma Chambers, made the short trip to the hospital from their home in Kingsley on Saturday evening, after Gemma's waters broke.

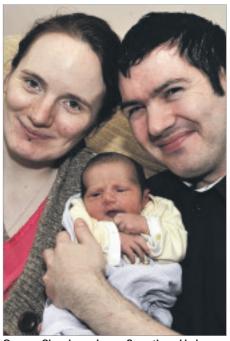
But baby Alice was in a hurry and, although the couple made it to the hospital, they were unable to reach the maternity ward in time and Gemma gave birth on a grass verge in the car

Mr Carveth, aged 27, said: "Just as we passed the Jesus Centre, Gemma said she want-ed to push. It scared the living daylights out of me.

"We got into the car park and were walking towards the building when Gemma said she couldn't walk any further and wanted to lay down. I screamed for someone to get help for us and some passers-by came with blankets and moral support."

Alice was delivered minutes later, weighing 5lb 12oz.

Mr Carveth said the family was now trying to track down a nurse who helped deliver the baby, adding: "I wasn't think-



Gemma Chambers, James Carveth and baby Alice, who couldn't wait to get to the hospital

ing straight so I didn't get her name, but I know she had and was quite emotional. We'd

never delivered a baby before love her to come forward so we could say thank you."

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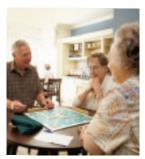
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Mercury and Citizen, Thursday, April 8, 2010

Council handed £2m as reward

be handed to Northamptonshire County Council by the Government as part of a nationwide project to protect frontline services.

The Government has announced the county council will receive £1,942,421 as part of the Performance Reward Grant scheme, which is designed to reward councils for hitting improvement

The leader of the authority, Councillor Jim Harker (Con, Kettering Rural) said the fact the council had been awarded the money proved improvements were made at County Hall. being

He said: "We don't really know exactly what this money will be used for at the moment, but I certainly welcome it and it is clear recognition that the council is improving, and we're very pleased with that.

"But we want to see sustained improvements and investments will be made to make sure that is the case.

He also paid tribute to the council's outgoing chief executive, Katherine Kerswell, who will move on to take the top job at Kent County Coun-

cil at the end of June.

He said: "This award from the Government really shows that the fruits of all the changes Katherine has



Northamptonshire County Council leader Jim Harker

made at County Hall are now

beginning to show." More than £280 has been given to almost 90 councils across the country as part of the Performance Reward Grant scheme.

Announcing the extra funding, local government minister Rosie Winterton said the extra money should be used by councils to improve services, despite the current economic climate.

She added: "Strong elected local authorities are key to meeting the challenges face today. As local leaders, councils know their areas and their unique challenges best and with the continued Government support being made available today they can meet local priorities from care, to libraries, to vouth services that matter most to their residents.'



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energy performance of windows and we are now reaching the stage where me double glazing will no longer be enough. The rough and ready method of comparing the energy performance of windows is to use the U value measurement, just as we do with walls. floors and roofs

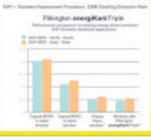
raditional windows with a single pane of glass in them, have a U-value in excess of 5. Double glazing used to score over 3, but, over the years, the manufacturing process has undergone a number of improvements and currently the Building Regulations insist that any window you install today should have a U-value no worse than 1.8.

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£1m facelift for shops

HISTORIC shop frontages in Northampton which have suffered from ne-glect could soon benefit from more than £1 million in funding, in the next stage of the regeneration of Gold Street.

Northampton Borough Council is currently awaiting approval for a bid it submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund, which could see the cash ploughed into restoring facades along the town centre thoroughfare.

The council's portfolio holder for regeneration Richard Church (Lib Dem, Kingsthorpe) said the funding would help improve on changes already made in the street.

He said: "We are awaiting the decision of the Heritage Lottery Fund after putting forward the bid. We hope it will be used to restore some

of the lovely old facades above the shops in Gold Street and also help bring the top floors of some of those buildings along Gold Street back into use.

"There are some great features on the buildings along Gold Street but that cannot really be seen at the moment because they have fallen into disrepair. We also want to improve the existing shop frontages as part of the regen-

eration of the area." He said the council was expecting a decision from the Heritage Lottery Fund 'very shortly".

Meanwhile, work is continuing on the trans-formation of the Grand Hotel in Gold Street into a new Travelodge. The hotel chain announced in December it was to invest £2.3 million in the historic building, due to re-open this summer.

Councillor Church said: "The redevelopment of the Grand Hotel is also key to the development of the facades, because that is one of the important buildings along Gold Street.

"The investment from Travelodge is a great boost to the area, which will bring jobs and fur-ther investment into the

town centre."
In 2002, plans were revealed to convert the hotel into a Walkabout Australian theme pub, but the scheme fell through after it was opposed by the council.

Under the new plans, the number of rooms in the hotel will be increased from 57 to 65. Travelodge said the new development would also create 10 new iobs and see the ground floor of the building converted into either shops or a restaurant.

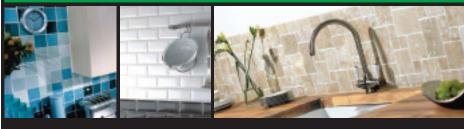




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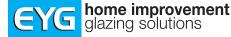


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Love always, Wendy, Steve & Troy xxx

CANNELL Robin

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XXX

HAMMOND

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JAMES

Ron

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2003.
You were everything
In life to me, my
Husband & my Friend,
Although you had to
Leave me our love
Will never end

Loving Wife May x

KIERNAN

Lillie
It broke our hearts
to lose you
But you did not

A part of us went with you The day God took you home

From your loving Sisters Helen & Bridie & Families

Always remembered by her loving Son Jimmy, Daughter-in-Law Rose

McCLELLAND Rose. In memory of our dear Mum who passed away on April 1st 1980.

and family.

18th Birthday

60th Birthday

Tim & Charlotte

JONES (nee Bennett)

are pround to announce the birth of their long awaited bundle of joy

George Alexander

21st March 2010 8lb 1oz

Well worth the wait Deepest gratitude to all at BMH &

my Sister Paula



Jay **AITKEN**

Congratulations on your 18th. Have a great day. Lots of love Mum, Dad, Nan, Russ, Paige and Demi XX

Lvnda & Leslev THE TAMPLIN **TWINS**

April 5th Happy 60th Birthday Happy holiday in 'Oz' Love from



Golden Wedding



Graham & Janice

FRANKLAND Congratulations to our special Mum & Dad and wonderful Gran & Pan your Golden Wedding Anniversary.
Simon, Cheryl, Dale,
Cindy, Tim, Melanie and
Jason and all your Grandchildren, Ben, Jack, Courtney Isabella and Madeleine

In Memoriam

Passed away 8th April 2003 Aged 66 A devoted Husband to his loving Wife Pauline Wife Pauline
Kind & caring Dad to
Carol, Angie, Paula,
Darrell & a special
Friend to their
Partners. Very proud
Pap to all his
Grandchildren &
Great Grandchildren
Miss wen so much Miss you so much with everlasting love $x \times x \times x \times x$

REDDING

Fred

SANDERSON Albert

Special Dad of Janet and Jeff, and Pap of Rebecca and Maria May the winds of love blow softly

God Bless

SAUNDERS Grace

Much loved Mum of Michael and Sue. Loving Gran of Mark, Gary, Michelle, Alan, Steve and

SAUNDERS Grace

Much loved Mother of Kathleen and Mick. The day thou gavest Lord

has ended. God Bless you Mum.

Mercury&Citizen 01604 515000

WALSH

Never more than a thought away loved and remembered every day. Bridie and 430 Family and Grandchildren. RIP

WATTS Jean Margaret

6th April 2009 Loved and remembered every day

Devoted Wife of Ker Devoted Wife of Ken
Dear Mother of
Keith, Christine,
Amanda, Elizabeth
and Martin and
their Partners
Much loved Nan
to all her
Grandchildren and
Great Grandchildren

x x x

In Memoriam

WILLS Derek Roy

Passed away April 3rd 2009. wonderful Son of Eric and the late Gloria.

Will love you forever.

WILLS Derek

Special Brother and Uncle. We all miss you so much. Give Mum a hug. Lots of love Pam, Joy, Samantha, Rob, Rikki, Robbie and Tiegan



their partners.
Also of her
Great Grandchildren. Our happy memories of you are gathered up and stored away, like faded petals that retain the fragrance of a summers day. God bless you.

Birthday Memories



Happy 67th Birthday Darling. Missing you so much, Love you forever x Shirley, Kim, Sindy & Families

YOUNG Bert

Remembering a dear Dad & Pap on your 67th Birthday. Gone from our lives But not from our hearts Memories of you Can't keep us apart. Happy Birthday Dad.

Love Kim & Jon, Jake & Sophie.





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Choose a top West End show from our fabulous selection which includes Billy Elliot, Chicago, Dirty Dancing, Grease, Jersey Boys, Legally Blonde, Les Misérables, Mamma Mia!, Oliver!. Phantom of the Opera. Love Never Dies, Sister Act, The Lion King, We Will Rock You and more!

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Public Notices

Public Notices HIGHWAYS

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 -

SECTION 14(1)(a)
THE A45 TRUNK ROAD (WOOTTON, NORTHAMPTON) (SLIP ROAD) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2010

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport has made an Order on the A45 Trunk Road at Wootton, near Northampton to allow telecommunication works to be carried out

The effect of the Order will be to close the slip road leading from the northbound carriageway of the A45 to its roundabout junction with London Road and

The work will be carried out overnight between the hours of 8.00pm and 9.00am and is expected to start on Saturday 17 April 2010 and last for two nights. The Order will come into force on 13 April 2010.

Vehicles being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works will be exempt from the closure. A diversion route via the A45/A508 interchange will be

well signed. MIKE LLOYD

A Higher Executive Officer in the Highways Agency General enquiries relating to these works may be made

to Trevor Langham, Project Manager on behalf of the Highways Agency, on 07802 195471.

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motorstoday

Thursday, April 8, 2010

Jeep and cheerful.

JEEP'S press release on its updated entry-level 4x4 turned out to be a little misleading.

"Patriot combines the packaging and interior flexibility of an SUV with the performance, handling, fuel economy and price of a C-segment car," it read. Most of that statement is totally right, but the cost claim is way off the mark. Jeep's base model is the Patriot 2.4-litre petrol Sport, with full-time four-wheel drive that sells for a fiver short of £14,000. The C-segment standard is the Ford Focus two-wheel

drive hatchback that retails for close to £15,000 for a 1.4-litre petrol model. Even Vauxhall's latest bold move to offer a bare-bones base model new Astra, again a 1.4, for £14,000 still leaves the Patriot looking an outright bargain. This all-American hero has full-time four-wheel drive, estate car space, and far more grunt under the bonnet. It is of similar dimensions to the Focus and Astra, but the Jeep's straight-up shape makes for a roomier interior. It also has a far bigger standard boot and gets more overall load capacity. If you'd rather compare

other sports utility rivals,

better. The market's star,

the Nissan Qashqai, costs

£500 more for the starter

two-wheel drive-only 1.6-

litre Visia.

the Patriot picture only gets

The incredibly harsh winter has since sent many British drivers running for crossover cover. However, money is still tight so the hunt to get more car for your cash is intensifying. Which puts the top-end Patriot in an even more favourable light. The 2.0 diesel Limited is anything up to five grand cheaper than a similarly-equipped crossover rival, and is the one to go for if you can live without slick styling or a flash dashboard.

The Patriot 2.0CRD costs £18,995, does 42.2mpg overall, and there's roughly the same drive sophistication, with the 4x4 system only bringing itself into play when needed.

Full of confidence, the 1968cc engine can tap into 138bhp and utilise the 20cm ground clearance to cross tough terrain and it will make light work of towing a lengthy caravan. Transmission is sixspeed manual, and there's no automatic option for this power pack.

Electronic stability, anti-lock all-disc brakes, anti-roll backup, the latest front and side airbag set-up, and emergency braking assistance are part of the safety furniture for this 117mph five-door estate. Also, the security list is equally pleasing. As for specification, it's a full list but not a fussy one. The audio system has just four speakers, for example, even though it comes with a six-disc CD autochanger. You need to buy-in the £1,250 sound-navigation

option to get nine speakers and surround-sound. But the seating is leathertrimmed, the glass is part-tinted, front seats are heated, there's cruise control. Also, Jeep hasn't forgotten the little touches, such as a rechargeable

torch and 12-volt power outlet.

And it was heartening to see a full-size spare wheel in place, and not one of those bicycle-style jobs. Which all says that you should not equate the Jeep's bargain price with a

bargain-basement outlook. The Patriot is more of an outstanding best-buy even for those who are not so budget-conscious. And while it may look like a classic, muscular 4x4, everything about it is stateof-the-art.



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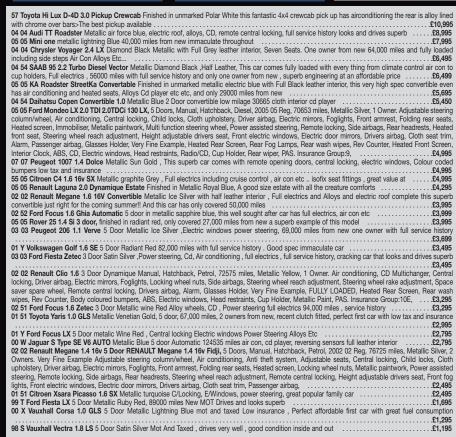
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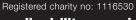
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READY FOR THE NEW SEASON - Northants Steelbacks modelled their new coloured kit at their annual press day at the County Ground on Tuesday. The County begin their new County Championship campaign tomorrow when they take on Leicestershire at Grace Road.

Reihana says Saints ready for Munster

BRUCE REIHANA says Saints will turn up at Munster on Saturday a better side than the one that lost there in the pool clash in January.

Saints go into the mouth watering Heineken Cup quarterfinal clash at Thomond Park (ko 5.30pm) on the back of nine wins in 10 games since that thunderous 12-9 defeat that saw Munster top the pool and Northampton go through as a runner-up.

Since that defeat, Saints have also won their first domestic cup, by bagging the LV= Cup and after another win on the Guinness Premiership road at Leeds on Saturday, confidence is high going into the clash.

Munster have lost just once at Thomond in 15 years of Heineken Cup rugby, but Reihana says Saints won't be intimidated after going so close to winning in the pool one decider.

"We have just got that winning edge about us now and we know never to say die," said Reihana.

"It is something we have learned well from last year, we learned a lot of lessons from last year a lot of those close games last year we lost.

"This year we are managing to grind them out and we

know if we keep believing in ourselves and keep putting pressure on eventually a score will come.

"We are creating more than enough opportunities, that is why we back ourselves over 80 minutes."

Reihana knows all about pulling off shock Heineken Cup victories.

He was captain of Saints when they travelled to San Sebastian with no chance of beating Biarritz, who had defeated them twice in the pool stages. But a tremendous rearguard action and an interception try from Robbie Kydd saw them stun 32,000 Basque fans with a shock 7-6 win.

saw them stun 32,000 basque fans with a shock 7-6 win. Reihana said: "That was a huge day and this could be one as well. We know what sort of challenge it will be.

"We will be working extremely hard on our game plan this week."

Bayo in fitness fight

ADEBAYO AKINFENWA'S ankle injury is not as bad as initially suspected – and the Cobblers may have their leading goalscorer available for the visit of Notts County to Sixfields this Saturday (ko 3pm).

The 27-year-old forward limped out of the 0-0 Easter Monday draw with Torquay United after sustaining a blow to his Achilles and a twist to his ankle.

The immediate diagnosis was that Akinfenwa would be out of action for at least a week and possibly more, with manager Ian Sampson stating at the time that it 'didn't look good.'

But the midweek assessment by the club's medical team is that the injury is manageable and that the 16-goal front man could be available for selection for the game against the Magpies at the weekend, a meeting of the two form sides in Coca-Cola League Two.

"The injury to his ankle is not as bad as first feared thankfully," said assistant manager Malcolm Crosby.

"He will undergo treatment this week and he has a chance of being fit to play against Notts County on Saturday.

"We will know more on his chances by Thursday, but obviously we are keeping our fingers crossed and the news is much better than we feared when he first went down.

"Knowing Bayo if there

"Knowing Bayo if there is any possible chance he will be out there and he has shown time and time again he will go through the pain barrier for the club.

"At this stage we are doing all we can and keeping our fingers crossed."

our fingers crossed."
If Akinfenwa isn't given the green light to play by the physiotherapists, Sampson will turn to Steve Guinan, who replaced the big man a third of the way through Monday's Sixfields stalemate with Torquay.
The Cobblers were 2-1

winners at Grimsby Town on Good Friday.

